

THE GREAT CONTEST.

OUR ARMY MARCHING SOUTH.

ALL PASSED THROUGH BERMUDA HUNDRED.

GEN. HANCOCK HAS THE ADVANCE.

Chickahominy Swamps Left for Lee.

Fighting on Wednesday at Petersburg.

THE RESULT NOT KNOWN

GRANT AND BUTLER IN CONSULTATION.

Details of the Late Movement.

THE ORDER AND LINES OF MARCH.

THE REBELS HURRY AFTER US.

Fine Foraging and Fine Weather.

News from Bermuda Hundred to Wednesday Morning—A Battle in Progress toward Petersburg—Probably an Attack in Force—All Grant's Army Passed Through Bermuda Hundred—Reinforcements Arriving.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, June 16, 1864.

A Government dispatch bearer, who got here this forenoon from Bermuda Hundred, reports that before he left on Wednesday morning a battle was in progress in the direction of Petersburg, and probably at that city. Cannon and musketry firing broke out at dawn, indicating an attack by Grant's troops, and was so heavy and continuous as to show that the attack was in force.

The whole of our army had passed through Bermuda Hundred. Where the advance guard was the dispatch bearer, of course, could not tell. He did know, however, that the rear-guard was several miles from Bermuda, and on the Petersburg road. The 5th Corps was in the advance.

Our informant saw considerable reinforcements of fresh troops arrive at Bermuda Hundred, and met more coming up the river as he went down.

The impression when he left was that Petersburg was defended only by volunteer citizen exempts, principal among whom were Professors of a female college, druggists, and merchants. If not defended by Longstreet's veterans, it was thought that Grant would burst into the town on the run.

Fighting at Petersburg—Result not Known—Details of the Great Movement Across the Swamps to James River.

FOURTH MONDAY, Wednesday, June 15, 1864.

The steamer John A. Warner, from Bermuda Landing, arrived here to-day.

Two army corps crossed to the south side of the James River last night. Other portions of the army are crossing at various points.

There was fighting this morning in the direction of Petersburg, the result of which is not known.

Gen. Grant and Butler were in consultation during yesterday.

Gen. Gillmore has not been relieved as was reported.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Tuesday, June 14—Evening.

The Army of the Potomac took up its line of march for the Chickahominy at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

The 5th Corps took the advance on the middle road, by way of Providence Church; the 2d Corps took the western road; the 9th and 6th Corps took the road leading to Jones Bridge; and in the mean time the 18th Corps embarked on transports at the White House.

The advance of the army halted for the night near the Chickahominy, which stream they crossed to-day without opposition. No signs of an enemy were to be seen except a few cavalry pickets, who fled at our approach.

The 5th Corps took the road leading to Hazlett's, and the 2d Corps reached the Charles City Court House at six in the evening.

The 6th and 9th Corps crossed at Jones Bridge, at a point about two miles lower down than Long Bridge, and are now close by.

The change of base has been very successfully made, with the utmost order, and without the loss of a man or a wagon, so far as your correspondent could hear.

It said that the Rebels left their works almost as soon as we did, taking the roads to Richmond.

The White House will be evacuated as soon as the supplies can be shipped on transports.

The crops here are very fine, and our horses to night are living in clover. It is expected that we will start for the James River at an early hour in the morning, and during the day open communication with Gen. Butler.

The weather is fine, the roads are good, and the Army of the Potomac are in the best of spirits.

Chaplain Bartlett of the 1st Maine Cavalry, was killed a few days ago by a shell.

Twelve o'clock, noon.—The army is now moving toward the river, for the purpose of crossing.

Gen. Grant and staff started for Gen. Butler's command this morning.

A few guerrillas were caught in the woods, and brought in this morning.

The Movement to the James—The Left Flank—Sheridan and His Cavalry—The Dust of the Peninsula.

From Our Special Correspondent.

WITH THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Sunday, June 12, 1864—6 p. m.

The whole army is again in motion. After six days of comparative rest the men march briskly, almost eagerly. They have replenished their stock of fighting endurance, at no time exhausted, but a week ago a good deal of it, and a rich new wine of battle again courses in their veins and exalts their hope and courage.

It is another flank movement—perhaps the most stupendous of the series. "Enamored of his left flank," said a Richmond paper lately, in discussing Grant's strategy. And a very good and fruitful thing to be enamored of the paper might have added. No mistletoe knot and fable has the left flank been, but a hand-maiden faithful and true to her lord and master.

The 5th Corps marched yesterday, and was last night at Jones Bridge, on the Chickahominy. It is to make the best possible time to the James River and across it. The 18th Corps (Smith's) is to take transports at White House for Bermuda Hundred.

It was moving in three columns, Hancock (3d Corps)

at the right nearest the Chickahominy, Burnside (9th Corps) on the left, and Wright (6th Corps) in the center. Army headquarters to-night will be at Cedar Grove. Sheridan is off with the divisions of Gregg and Torbert to find Hunter and pilot him in this direction. Wilson's division will watch our rear and right flank.

Gen. Getty has been placed in command at White House. His wound will not admit of field service for some weeks. His Adjutant-General, Capt. Hazard Stevens, also wounded in the Wilderness, has also returned to duty.

The heat and dust of to-day's marching are terrible. Dirt, dust, pulverization of earth into infinitesimal particles of concreteness. Dirt, dust, soil, no longer soil but ashes. Powder, worse than that of guns, worse than any prescribed by physicians. Dirt, dust, ashes, powder.

Aluminum—crushed, ground, pulverized, and powdered. Fine dirt, knee-deep to wade through. Impalpable dust, sky-high to breathe. A hundred thousand shirts, uncomfortable as the shirt of Nessus. A hundred thousand skins, uncomfortable as the skin of Harpel after the leprosy of Naaman, elevated upon him. Dirt, dust, ashes, as we go marching on.

Why, I have this week been all the way to Washington, that I might achieve the novel sensation of cleanliness, and now this march makes my last days worse than my first. I suspect the army has picked itself up and journeyed to the James River at the dictation of a strictly military necessity. It will doubtless further the purpose of taking Richmond, but I believe this to be a subordinate consideration. The paramount reason is to have a grand army washing day! and no stream of less abstrusity capacity than the James will suffice. Dust! then scourge of the great modern Virginia Desert—ugh! ugh! ugh! I loathe thee, and I draw thee as though thou wert sweet with the perfume of Araby the Blest, and Cathy and Blanche, probably the fairest of the great modern Oriental spics, into my nostrils, and thou art laden with the seventy distinct stinks of Cologne. I detest thee, and I swallow thee. I abominate thee, and I take thee to my bosom. That which I would eschew I chew. I am wretched and I reth.

There are more than 100,000 men marching by, and they are all like unto me, only more abundant in their dust and misery. Calculate the aggregate, and credit it to the Army of the Potomac.

FROM CAIRO AND BELOW.

THE Blockade of the Mississippi—Fight with Marmaduke—He Holds the River—The Iron-Clads Moving—Shooting and Arrest of Murderers—Lincoln and Fremont in the West.

From Our Special Correspondent.

CAIRO, June 13, 1864.

News from below looks blue. It seems that the Mississippi really is blockaded. We had, on Friday, an account of a fight with Marmaduke at Columbus, which was not as favorable for our side as a later one. The truth now seems to be this: Marmaduke had quite a force at Columbus, with eight cannon, and closed the river on the 2d. On the 7th, Maj. Gen. A. J. Smith of the Regular Army, and commanding the 16th Army Corps, with part of said corps, led by Moor and More, landed near Columbus, and advanced upon the Rebels; they retreated beyond Fish Bayou, and lay in the timber, having destroyed dykes and bridges. Smith advanced through an open field; was stopped by the bayou; the Rebels opened a destructive fire; our troops could do nothing. Smith ordered a retreat across the field, with a loss of 40 killed, among whom were Major John, 25th Iowa, and 40 wounded—Major Miller, 4th Illinois, probably mortally. Smith returned to Columbus, said to be six miles distant. The move he next made is contraband. An expedition of some kind is on foot at Columbus, where the Rebels are heavy. Some reports that Columbus was a town of 400 inhabitants—that it was reduced to ashes by our troops; others that there have been only two or three houses there for several years.

Of course the blockade will not last long. Admiral Porter, according to his promise, will be along with the Iron-clads. The best way of holding the river is through military posts back of the river. The holding of Little Rock secures the navigation for more than 300 miles. To the defeat of Banks are these and other troubles to be added.

Thousand refugees, true Union men, are on their way to this place from South-East Arkansas. It is a good thing that so far, the crops in the West never were so promising. The South rapidly is decreasing in population while the North is increasing. Some reports that five hundred heads of cotton were sold here during the past week to various parties, at an average of 50 cents.

The soldier, Wm. Weaver, who murdered Col. Osborne of the 31st Illinois, of which I gave you an account last Fall, and of which I gave you an account—may be remembered their bodies were eaten by dogs, close to a house where a family lived—have been arrested. They were deserters from the 10th Illinois, and turned up as volunteers in the hundred day service. It was, and is, impossible for them to escape.

The nomination of Lincoln is heartily endorsed by all our Union men. A ratification meeting was held here which was enthusiastic. This would not have been so if the friends of Fremont did not think he was a better man than Lincoln. They say they have done with Fremont because he has gone over to the Copperheads. They expected the Copperheads would unite with the Radicals, and that the Radicals would make the advance to them. They do not see how the most disastrous can object to Fremont. They say he has defeated McClellan, and broken up what is left of the Democratic party, or reorganized it with the Radicals on one wing, the Democracy on the other. They are indignant that Fremont should explain of military affairs, when hitherto no one has feared them, but the disloyal. The originators of these complaints are known to have made them not because they were just, but because they had taken up these worn-out, second-hand things, and become the apostles of Vallandigham, seems monstrous. Meanwhile, the Copperheads rejoice and applaud Fremont. But they do not, as yet, propose to vote for him. It is said no man has ever left at his own throat both before and behind. They point to him as an instance of a man naturally honest, brave and patriotic, trying to be a politician. He is like a blacksmith trying to make a watch.

There are other better things said about Fremont, and I have not seen a Union man who does not endorse them—in particular, they think he shows spirit against the President, which is, to say the least, magnified.

I think I state the truth, that Lincoln could not do other things have received an amount of publicity upon him. People think Lincoln's story of trading horses in the water was not in the best taste—they let it pass, as they have some other things. N. Y. C.

Movements of Morgan.

CINCINNATI, Thursday, June 16, 1864.

The Times correspondent at Flemingsburg, Ky., June 12, says the remnant of Morgan's command, numbering 700, passed through there on the morning of the 12th, en route possibly for Pound Gap. They admit a loss of nearly 1,000 at Cincinnati. A Union force of 1,500, in pursuit, arrived at Flemingsburg about six hours after Morgan left.

Important Expedition from Memphis.

From private sources we learn that an expedition left Memphis for some point east of the place about the 1st instant, a time having elapsed since the expedition moved there is now no propriety in alluding to the subject. The force is estimated at 20,000, of which one-half was cavalry under the command of Gen. Grierson. It is estimated that Corinth, Miss., was the destination of the expedition, the object being to defeat the Rebel Gen. Forrest's plans for intercepting Gen. Sherman's communications. Whatever may be the object of the expedition, there is reason to believe from the character of its leaders, that it will prove a success.

Gen. Grant.

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VOL. XXIV.....No. 7,239.

NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1864.

PRICE THREE CENTS.

LATE REBEL NEWS.

Junction of Crook, Averill, and Hunter.

Pope with 4,000 Men Going to Hunter Operations in Mississippi and Arkansas.

Sherman Will Not Risk a General Engagement.

UNION RAID UPON PETERSBURG.

STUBBORN DEFENSE UNAVAILING.

KAUTZ TAKES THE REBEL WORKS.

GRANT'S MOVEMENTS A PUZZLE.

BUT HIS ARMY IS DEMORALIZED.

AND HE CAN DO NO HARM.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

DARING ATTEMPT OF KAUTZ'S CAVALRY TO CAPTURE PETERSBURG.

From The Richmond Examiner, June 12.

Yesterday was another day of excitement in our midst, but little more was done by our citizens than to prepare for the stern realities of the crisis which stared them in the face.

Yesterday morning at 1 o'clock three distinct discharges of cannon were heard in the direction of their whereabouts, and at early dawn our pickets were driven in on the City Point and Prince George Court-House roads. It was subsequently ascertained that these movements were made with much ease, at a short time after dawn, the movements for the surprise and capture of the city were on the Jerusalem plank-road, coming into Petersburg from a southerly direction.

On the 2d of June, the enemy appeared in force on both sides of the river, and at 7 o'clock, a brisk skirmishing was kept up for some time. At 8 o'clock the Court-house and engine bells were rung, to which the citizens responded with their usual alacrily, and manifested every disposition to defend their homes and families.

At 10 o'clock our pickets on the Jerusalem plank-road were driven in, and before 10 the enemy showed himself in overwhelming numbers, filling the road and woods on both sides of the river, and at 11 o'clock the Court-house and engine bells were rung, to which the citizens responded with their usual alacrily, and manifested every disposition to defend their homes and families.

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